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## Oral History Interview: Mr. Roy Gunnoe

Roy L. Gunnoe

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# Veteran's Release Form

TO BE COMPLETED BY VETERAN OR CIVILIAN

(In cases of deceased veterans, to be completed by the donor of the material.)

I, Roy L. Gunnoe, am a participant in the Veterans History Project (hereinafter "VHP"). I understand that the purpose of the VHP is to collect audio- and video-taped oral histories of America's war veterans and of those who served in support of them as well as selected related documentary materials (such as photographs and manuscripts) that may be deposited in the permanent collections of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. The deposited documentary materials will serve as a record of American veterans' wartime experiences; and may be used for scholarly and educational purposes. I understand that the American Folklife Center plans to retain the product of my participation as part of its permanent collection and that the materials may be used for exhibition, publication, presentation on the World Wide Web and successor technologies, and for promotion of the Library of Congress and its activities in any medium.

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ACCEPTED AND AGREED

Signature Roy L. Gunnoe Date 02/18/05  
month/day/year  
Printed Name Roy L. Gunnoe  
Address WV Veterans Home  
City Barboursville State WV ZIP 25504 -  
Telephone ( 304 ) - 736-1027

Veteran's Release Form

Transcribed by: Hannah McCullough

Dates: March 22, 2005; March 23, 2005; March 24, 2005; March 25, 2005; April 3, 2005;

April 4, 2005; April 8, 2005; April 9, 2005

**MCCULLOUGH:** It's Friday, February 25, 2005. I'm Hannah McCullough and I'm at the Barboursville Veteran's Home to interview Mr. Roy Gunnoe. Mr. Gunnoe was born on 1920 err June 20, 1909 and he resides here at the Veteran's Home. What branch of the service were you in?

**GUNNOE:** I was with the 25<sup>th</sup> Navy Sea Bees with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division.

**MCCULLOUGH:** In what war?

**GUNNOE:** In World War II in the South Pacific

**MCCULLOUGH:** Okay. And what was your rank?

**GUNNOE:** I was a Chief Commissary Stewart, a Chief Petty Officer

**MCCULLOUGH:** Okay, thank you. First let's talk a little bit about what you did before you were in the war, like what

**GUNNOE:** Well, before I was in the war, I uh I didn't like the coal fields. I was born close to the coal fields. My dad worked in a coal field. And Lieutenant Roy Jameson was a friend of mine, we were friends rather and he got me a job with the (?National?) Youth Administration of South Charleston. I went in there as a ship's cook, not a ship's cook, but a cook, and I was promoted to management. And I was in management there until just before the war. And I had been in the service six years before that, in the Army. And I enlisted at the start of the war. And actually I went to uh, I enlisted in the Navy Sea Bees, and we were sent to San Diego, California, and formed into combat units with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division. We went from there to Auckland, New Zealand and the Solomon Islands. And boy we were welcome there

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah, I bet.

**GUNNOE:** Because they were afraid of the invasion of the Japanese at that time. We went from there to Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands, and we secured Guadalcanal and went to two other islands there and secured them. Then we went from that to uh--- gee I can't hardly think of a lot of the things that happened back in those days--- went to uh---with the invasion of Japan, rather we expected the invasion of Japan on Guadalcanal, from Guadalcanal to uh the Marshall Islands and from there on to uh---I can't think of it and it's one of the most important places we was at.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Did you tell me you were in Guam? Is that what you're trying to think of?

**GUNNOE:** Guam and the Marianas. Yes.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Okay. Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** And we were there. And we secured Guam. And the strange part there was we has information from the natives there that there was 122,000 Japs on the island. And our unit, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division attached unit were only about 79,000, and we were a little concerned about it.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah, I bet.

**GUNNOE:** But we found out after we landed in there and secured one part of the island that the 25<sup>th</sup> Army Division, which were all African Americans except a few officers, and that was one time that boy you felt equal.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah, I bet.

**GUNNOE:** They were fighting by your side, and we felt, you know, a strange relation with the blacks since that time. And then there, that's where I got this book here. And in our unit we



were with all previous service men and a variety of things that, you know, we was forced into the combat unit with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Well, you said you were in the Army beforehand, right?

**GUNNOE:** Yes.

**MCCULLOUGH:** And then you enlisted in the Navy. Why did you choose the Navy to enlist in?

**GUNNOE:** Well, I'd been out of the Army some time before we went into the Navy, rather war.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** But before I went into the Army, I'd enlisted in the Navy and we'd had our papers fixed and I was under age, only (?19?). But I had always had a feeling for them

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** Cause, I don't know, it was just like in the Hawaiian Islands we were the \_\_\_\_ + aircraft in the Army, but we were stationed close to Pearl Harbor. We spent most of our time around with the Navy.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh

**GUNNOE:** Even back in those days.

**MCCULLOUGH:** So you were near Pearl Harbor before like

**GUNNOE:** Yes. I was. Actually there at the edge part of our base was in Pearl Harbor area.

**MCCULLOUGH:** It was. Yeah. So do you remember what it was like when you first arrived like after you joined the Navy, and you said you went from Virginia to California, and then you went, do you remember like.

**GUNNOE:** Went to Auckland, New Zealand, yes. We went there as a defensive division cause they were afraid, see the New Zealand islands are close to Japan.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** And they were under the British Solomon Islands. They were under British rule, and the British had taken practically all there military back to Germany, war with Germany. We was there for about, I don't remember whether it was three or six weeks in training. I know we had to run around a field there that was a mile and a half, boy we had to toughen up before this invasion of Japan.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** And Guadalcanal.

**MCCULLOUGH:** While you were over there what exactly was your job assignment, like what did you personally do?

**GUNNOE:** My job assignment, I was a Chief Commissary Stewart, a chief of the Navy, well there were two Chief Commissary Stewarts, and we were each assigned to a combat unit. And that combat unit would be as much as twenty, twenty-seven thousand men. And we would check variety of, with mostly Marine galleys or cooking, cooks and all.

[Interview interrupted by an announcement over the loud speaker at the Veteran's Home]

**GUNNOE:** What's that?

**MCCULLOUGH:** They were asking for someone to report to nursing. They didn't say your name though. Let's see, were there many casualties in your unit?

**GUNNOE:** Italians?

**MCCULLOUGH:** No. Casualties? Were many people

**GUNNOE:** Oh, Calvary. No, we didn't have any Calvary units and that 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division was an attached unit they call it. It was the Navy Sea Bees and the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup>, or 4<sup>th</sup> Marine

Raider Battalions. They were taught a little different from all the other forces. They'd go out on their own. They were taught to kill. They wanted to kill.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** And that was all there whole life. And they would go out without, they would form a platoon on their own, not formed from headquarters. They'd go out and kill Japs. See the Japs, once we broke down, they were hiding in the jungles. And we'd have to go out and try to get them, and they wouldn't, I mean we wouldn't take them surrendered either. They would, you know, try to trick us into dropping into places like that.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** We got to the point that we didn't really want to take prisoners either.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah. Were there many people, like in your unit, did many of them get killed in the war? While you were there were very many people.

**GUNNOE:** Yes. We had 54% casualties.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Wow. That's awful.

**GUNNOE:** At Guam. On the island Guam. And they had a list, I don't have it in that book, they had a list of the casualties, killed and wounded. Killed, wounded, and crack-up. See there was a lot of crack-ups there. Guys go crazy.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah. That's sad.

**GUNNOE:** Can't remember what it was now. We used to have a number, I don't think it's in that book. So we had heavy casualties.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Were you ever a prisoner of war?

**GUNNOE:** Beg your pardon.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Were you ever a prisoner of war?

**GUNNOE:** No, never was a prisoner.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Okay. Did you want, were there any just memorable experiences you wanted to tell me about, or do you have anything that just stands out in your mind?

**GUNNOE:** Well, yes, some of them. In my job, see, as a Chief Commissary Stewart, we had drivers, usually weapon carriers or whatever. And they would take the food from one section to another all down the line. In other words, Al, the other Chief Commissary Stewart in my unit, he had charge of one beach, and I'd have charge of another. We had red beach 1 and 2, and I never will forget that. The things, the mistakes you make.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** I had red beach 2, 1, and he had red beach 2. And we had come together there, we had watched our forces going up, and I had a bunch of the 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Raider Battalion. And we was going up a hill, and back in those islands, on the island of Guam, they were formed from volcanoes, most of the hills were.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** And we were going up the hill, and I was looking over to the side there, and we had the 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Raider Battalion breaking through the lines and going up the hill, and killing the Japs, and the Japs killing them. See them fall just like chickens jumping around.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** We was on our line, I was on his line and he was on mine, I mean we'd come together there, normally we'd check up and down our own lines. We looked up there watching them kill Japs, and the Japs kill the Marines. And we looked in, walked up the hill and looked in the caves, and those Japs would go in those caves, and I looked in there and I seen a Jap's body. And well we had, back in those days, it was a Japanese samurai sword.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** The Japanese highest ranking captains had all carried one of those. And we looked in there and we seen them along with the Japs bodies. And I said, "Al, I'm going in there to get that samurai sword." And I never will forget, he grabbed me by the shirt and he said, "Don't be a darn fool, let's get back to our station."

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** And we moved on. We hadn't gone hardly anywhere, and we heard those little (?namboo?) machine guns the Japanese had. And the Marines come back in there and killed, they killed about, I don't know, maybe about 15 or 20 of those Japs in there that was going to commit suicide. So I always thought of that, and that was the one thing that Al and I was responsible for. To inform all of the cooks, well in the food service, and the drivers not to take any chances with that.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** Because they would set up traps, you know, try to get you in.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** And here I was going to take one if it hadn't been for Al.

**MCCULLOUGH:** You were going to fall for it. Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** I never will forget that. And they both come, and uh, there I come back to Charleston, West Virginia.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** I went and bought a restaurant, and Al come in to stay with me, he and his wife about a week. And Mr. Tuttle, he was the Mess Officer, the one that put us up for commission. We turned it down on account of being assigned for 3 years more in the service.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** I just think of it that they're both gone now.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** Al and his wife, you see we were sent from the Naval base there in Virginia to California, San Diego. We stayed out there about 5 or 6 weeks. Our wives both come out to visit us.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Oh. That was nice. Yeah. You got a chance to see them.

**GUNNOE:** They stayed there.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Once you were overseas, how did you keep in touch with people back home? Did you get much of a chance?

**GUNNOE:** No. I didn't keep in touch. There wasn't no way of using a telephone or anything.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** And you had to be careful about mailing letters.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** Couldn't mail a letter because you had to be sure that you didn't give away where you were stationed.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah. You don't want anybody to know really.

**GUNNOE:** You were only allowed so many letters, and you had to have them checked before you could send them.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah. Did you all have like plenty of supplies and everything while you were there?

**GUNNOE:** Yes. We were very fortunate that way. Of course one of the things back then, our supply ships coming in there, they were always under the, we had Air Force, or air craft carriers rather.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** And they would go down and escort our supply ships in.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Well, that's neat. Yeah. Was there anything special you did for good luck? Like did you have any good luck thing that you had to do while you were there?

**GUNNOE:** Well I don't know whether you read that or not, in there about supplies, there on Guam, we had a naval base there. They would come in, and we would go down there and take a force and get supplies that come in. Some of the disabled ships that come in, they'd say we could have anything we wanted off of them.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** Not only supplies, but equipment. And we come in there once, and the chiefs in charge of the food and everything down there at that base, we were close friends. The officers, commissioned officers, were allowed so much whiskey, and they gave it all to us, the supplies, trade, make a deal with. And I never will forget that. We went down there, we got an ice cream machine, and I don't know what else from the ship.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah. I read in there.

**GUNNOE:** We normally wouldn't have supplies see, we got, and that's one reason in there about, that I got so many things for them. The reason was that I got whiskey for them.

**MCCULLOUGH:** While you all were over there, like when you weren't actually in combat or whatever, what did people do to entertain themselves?

**GUNNOE:** Well, there wasn't much entertainment there because there was so many casualties, and when you wasn't in combat you were always thinking about the next one.

[Interview interrupted by an announcement over the loud speaker at the Veteran's Home]

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah. I bet. I just didn't know if they had anything over there.

**GUNNOE:** Cause you had just gone from one island to another, there in the Solomon Islands I think there was 3 or 4 islands we went to.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** And secured before we used Guadalcanal as our operating base. And after we secured all the islands, we moved back there, and from there we went to Guam and the Marianas. And that's where we was in with the blacks, the African Americans.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** The 28<sup>th</sup> Army Division. That's one reason, boy you felt like brothers there.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah. Were there any like special skills or lessons that you learned while you were over there? Did you learn anything in particular?

**GUNNOE:** Well, nothing except losing your friends, I think.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah. I bet that was really difficult.

**GUNNOE:** That affected you some for years to come.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah. Okay, do you, like the day your service ended, like the day you were done, do you remember that day, like what happened that day, and where you were at and stuff?

**GUNNOE:** Yes. I do remember it, cause we were on Guam in the Marianas.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** The war ended. We were ready for the invasion of Japan, where they dropped the nuclear bomb. The war ended. And then that's where we turned down our commissions.



**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** Cause we would have had to serve three more years.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** And we come in there, and they said anyone 30 years or older that has 4 years combat duty. And I'd had combat duty cause I went at the start of the war.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** And we went on an aircraft carrier. We went from there back to Pearl Harbor. And we stayed there about a week, waiting to come back with a disabled battle ship, back to the states. I never will forget that. We stayed there about a week. And I was real interested in it all, because back there before the war, a long time before that I'd been station with the 64<sup>th</sup> (?anti-aircraft?) at Pearl Harbor.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** So we went to the base, where the naval base was, in Pearl Harbor and all that and (?Britania?) Street and there, where we used to go.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** But it did change quite a bit.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** We spent a good time there until we went on the battle ship and come back to the states. And I called my wife from San Diego. And we were on, they had a train, that had the troops, carried, troop train. And I called her and told her about when I was going to be leaving. And we come into Charleston, there, and she met me there at the station.

**MCCULLOUGH:** I bet she was glad to see you.

**GUNNOE:** Yeah. She was glad to see me, and I was glad to see her too.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah. I bet you were glad to be back.

**GUNNOE:** Yeah. She was there.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Did you make any close friendships while you were in the service? While you were over there.

**GUNNOE:** Yes. I did with Mr. Tuttle, the Mess Officer. And Al, Chief Allen, we were real close friends. We both had the same duties. We was both Chief Commissary Stewarts.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** And Al was from Old Hickory, Tennessee. And he'd come to visit me. I never did go visit him, but he come to visit me twice.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** And he, the last time, we'd always call, once every year. I'd call Christmas and he'd call the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. And we did that for years.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** And then I called, he didn't call me, and I thought well something's wrong, and I called and his wife said he had died. And that was oh, well, that's been a long time ago.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh. Well, that's good that you kept in touch for a while though.

**GUNNOE:** Yes. Uh-huh. We kept in touch with Al and Mr. Tuttle.

**MCCULLOUGH:** When you came back after the war, what was your career?

**GUNNOE:** I went into the food business. When I came back, of course I'd been in the food business in the Army as a cook and a Mess Sergeant, and in the Navy I went in as ship's cook first class and was promoted to Chief Commissary Stewart at the start of the war.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** And when I came back, my wife had saved money, and a Grillette there, I looked around, and a Grillette is a small restaurant there in the arcade. And I bought it for \$3500, and was there about 2 years, and we did real well. My wife helped me. And my sister from Logan, well it was her husband, come over, they wanted to go into business with me. And at the end of the war, about the time they \_\_\_\_get in. So I decided well I would buy a big restaurant, and I checked other restaurants, cause that's one of the things you do in the restaurant business, you want to know what ever other restaurant is doing in your town.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** And I'd bought the restaurant for \$26,000, and they come in, they only had \$3000, and I said well we'll put it in the joint account.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** That was in thirty, '47 rather. I'd been in business at the arcade for 2 years. And we were there till '58, thirteen years. And we did real well there until those other units moved in up there, those malls.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** And things. They're still there.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** And they took all the business away from us, the business section of South Charleston, or Charleston rather, which is on Corrier, Capital, and Summer Streets, the business section of Charleston.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** Boy they took business away. We moved to Florida with the intention of buying a restaurant. And I went to Orlando, I went in as a cook at the Martin Company in Orlando. So I

could get acquainted with the place, and I was checking around, there were 2 or 3 places I wanted. One was a chain outfit.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** And a couple others I was interested in, but about that time they promoted me to manager, management. I wasn't even allowed to work then, cause they have a strong union see, aerospace workers, and if your in management, you don't do any work.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** And I had only spent 40 hours a week and my salary was, I don't remember if it was 250 or 350. I don't remember which, but it was pretty good salary.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** And they gave me, if I worked overtime, which was once and a while we'd work on the weekends.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** They'd give us \$10 an hour extra. And another thing, we had three, we had the main plant, we had two restaurants there, seated 2200 on the first floor and 1800 on the second floor, and we had one main kitchen, and we had two short-order places there. And we had, we called it the manufacturing, place where they did the manufacturing. And down at the airport, we had a food service down there also. Cause our, most of our contract was with the federal government. And they would send people in for different things.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh. Did your experiences in the military like influence your thinking about wars or the military in general? Did they.

**GUNNOE:** Yes. It did. I think for instance about the war now in Iwo Jima, not Iwo Jima, but Iraq.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** I don't think we should be there. Yeah, well, you know I have a lot of confidence and admiration for a lot of friends I had in the service during the war. And I've seen a lot of them die. In other words, we \_\_\_\_ start there till our Air Force, our air carriers moved in there at the later part of the war, the Japs had control of the air and the sea both.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh. Okay, is there anything else you want to add that we didn't really talk about? Do you have anything else you want to say?

**GUNNOE:** No. I know that I think about it quite often.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** But other than that, it's like that [referring to his book], I used to go in there and I remember things in there.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** Cause the guys, the chiefs, that made those, established those books were on Guam. And they've got a whole record of the war in there, but they've only got light spots.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** Cause you seen so many of your buddies killed.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** They'd \_\_\_\_ bombs, and we'd dig in at our foxholes as much as possible, but a certain extent you had to be out.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** Yeah, I've seen a lot of my friends killed.

**MCCULLOUGH:** I can't even imagine what that would be like.

**GUNNOE:** Yeah. One of them was, well one of the reasons, he was our top driver. We sent food all across the line. Had him loaded up in there, and had two cooks with him, or mess cooks rather. And we'd come under attack that time, we didn't have, we were under condition red all the time, and we heard the zero, (?zap?) zero planes coming in. They'd fly real low.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** Then they'd drop bombs. And they hit the truck, blowed it up. And I seen the body blowed up.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Oh. That's sad.

**GUNNOE:** Of course there, there you seen so many deaths, unless it was a good friends of yours or somebody, you just accepted it.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh. Well, thank you for talking to me.

**GUNNOE:** Thank you.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Thank you for sharing. I really appreciate that.

[The interview on February 25, 2005 ended here. A new interview was then conducted on March 7, 2005]

**MCCULLOUGH:** It's Monday, March 7, 2005. I'm Hannah McCullough, and I'm at the Veteran's Home in Barboursville, West Virginia, to interview Mr. Roy Gunnoe. Mr. Gunnoe was born on June 20, 1909, and he resides here at the Veteran's Home. Mr. Gunnoe, what branch of the service were you in?

**GUNNOE:** Beg your pardon.

**MCCULLOUGH:** What branch of the service were you in?

**GUNNOE:** Oh, I was in the 22<sup>nd</sup> Navy Sea Bees, and I spent the war with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division, in a combat unit with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division.

**MCCULLOUGH:** In what year, err, what war was it?

**GUNNOE:** I went in in 1941.

**MCCULLOUGH:** What war?

**GUNNOE:** Year 1941. Then back in '45.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Okay. That was World War II, right?

**GUNNOE:** Right.

**MCCULLOUGH:** What was your rank?

**GUNNOE:** I was a Chief Commissary Stewart.

**MCCULLOUGH:** And where did you serve?

**GUNNOE:** Beg your pardon.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Where were you? Where did you serve?

**GUNNOE:** Well, I started with the Navy Sea Bees in Roanoke, Virginia. Then we went to San Diego and attached to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division, in combat units with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division. Went from 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division, we shipped to Auckland, New Zealand at the start of the war. And from there to Guadalcanal and the Solomon Islands. And we secured all the Solomon Islands, that was with the 25<sup>th</sup>, uh, 22<sup>nd</sup> Navy Sea Bees, 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Raider Division, Battalions rather, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division. And we went from the Solomon Islands to Guam and the Marianas at the end of the war, there close to the end of the war. And we were offered, the other chief and myself, were offered a commission, of Lieutenant Senior Grade. We turned it down because the commander said "Just want to remind you that you'll have to sign up for 3 years duty at the end of this war."

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** And we didn't want that.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah. Okay, let's talk a little bit about before the war, like your prior experience. You said that you grew up around the coal fields, and you really didn't

**GUNNOE:** Yes. I did, in the coal fields. I enlisted, I was on Coal River, just above White Seal, worked the coal mines. And I enlisted in the Army, and I was station in the Hawaiian Islands, Honolulu, for 3 years.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Why did you pick the Army, like to begin with? Why did you

**GUNNOE:** Well, I just wanted to get away from the coal fields.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Just, you just chose the Army, just to get away.

**GUNNOE:** Frankly, that's mostly. And when the end of the war, end of that time, I went to Fort Thomas, Kentucky.

**MCCULLOUGH:** When you first decided to go into the Army, how did your family react to that?

**GUNNOE:** Well, they didn't object to it. My mother, she understood, you know, she was the only one left at that time, and she understood that I didn't like that. My brother, now, Jullian , the one that's here in Huntington now, he was in Marshall College.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** And then on the second enlistment, Fort Thomas, Kentucky, I was offered a masters degree, but my mom told me I'd have to come home or else Jullian would have to drop out of college.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** So I come home, and I worked in the coal fields. See, it was '35 when I come out, then in '37 I enlisted, didn't enlist, I got a job with, strange that I can't think of that name, the name was uh, it was the National Youth Administration, that's what it was.



**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** I went in there as management, ship's cook, not a ship's cook, but as a manager of food service.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** And I stayed in there till I got married in 1940. My wife was working in the finance department at the National Youth Administration. We were married in 1940, in '41 I enlisted in the Navy.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** The Navy Sea Bees. Where we spent time with World War II.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah. Okay, let's go back to when you were enlisting in the Army the first time. Did you go alone, or did some of your friends go too? Was it just you that decided?

**GUNNOE:** No. I just went by myself.

**MCCULLOUGH:** You went by yourself. What was your first impression, like when you got to your boot camp or whatever it was? Like what

**GUNNOE:** After I was completed with boot camp training?

**MCCULLOUGH:** No. Like the first day you went, the very first day. You leave home, and you go to boot camp, what was going through you mind? Like what

**GUNNOE:** Well, uh, the same as all the other, in boot camp.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** Cause you had to go through training, and see, in the military you obey orders regardless of what they was.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** And that's the most difficult thing, cause I noticed in there, a lot of those fellows would crack-up because they would have to obey

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** whatever the drill sergeant said.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** And that was the toughest part of it.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** But I went from there to cook, and then went into mess sergeant.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Okay. What was a typical day like when you were in boot camp?

**GUNNOE:** Well, the thing of it in there, you had to obey orders, learn to obey orders. You had to get up at a certain time. You had drills at a certain time.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** And you didn't question anything.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah. Did exactly what they said to do.

**GUNNOE:** That the sergeant or corporal or whoever said to you.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** You had six weeks of that training.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Then, yeah, okay, when your boot camp was over, when that training was over, where did you go after that and what did you do?

**GUNNOE:** Oh, after boot camp.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** We went to uh, I went to boot camp in the Hawaiian Islands, in Honolulu.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** Fort Shafter. I went from there to Fort Shafter rather, from boot camp, Fort (?Derussy?), that's the boot camp in the Hawaiian Islands. I went from there to the 64<sup>th</sup> Anti-aircraft, Fort Hudson.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** And went into cooking school right off.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** And then I was promoted to sergeant, 1<sup>st</sup> cook sergeant, and from there I came back to the states. At that time that was the Hawaiian Islands.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah, it wasn't a state yet.

**GUNNOE:** It wasn't a state yet.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah. So did you travel to very many different places while you were in the Army, or were you mostly just.

**GUNNOE:** Well. Yes. I traveled quite a bit when I was in the Hawaiian Islands. I traveled to all of them, we was in what they call the Antillean Platoon, but I was just a cook.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** And we went to all the islands, Oahu, Molokai, and the big island, Hawaii is the big island.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** We went to all those islands. We were in the Antillean Platoon, they called it an Antillean Platoon, but I was just a domestic cook.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah. Okay. How long did you say you were in the Army?

**GUNNOE:** I was in the Army six years.

**MCCULLOUGH:** For six years.

**GUNNOE:** Three years in the Hawaiian Islands and then three years in Fort Thomas, Kentucky.

**MCCULLOUGH:** And what was your reason for leaving?

**GUNNOE:** You mean, well, at the end of your enlistment you can make a decision whether

**MCCULLOUGH:** Okay. You just

**GUNNOE:** There I wanted to come back to the states.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah. Okay.

**GUNNOE:** And leaving Fort Thomas, Kentucky, I had to come back on account of my brother in college.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah. Okay. When you returned home from the Army, you said you started working for the National Youth Administration.

**GUNNOE:** I worked in the coal mines mostly.

**MCCULLOUGH:** And then you got the job with the, as the

**GUNNOE:** Then I enlisted in 1941 in the Army, or rather in the Navy.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** I went to the Navy Sea Bees with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** Spent the war in the, with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah. Okay. So you're home and you're working and stuff. Do you remember where you were and what you were doing when the attack on Pearl Harbor occurred?

**GUNNOE:** I was, well, yes, I was already in, made up my mind and enlisted in the Navy Sea Bees and went in training.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Okay.

**GUNNOE:** They dropped that bomb on a Sunday, and on Monday morning I left for, went to Virginia, yeah, down there in training.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Okay. Yeah, so, how long were you in Virginia and what did you do while you were there?

**GUNNOE:** We had, I'm not sure, but it seems to me, we had about six weeks training. But since I'd been in the Army six years before I was a drill sergeant.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** There.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Well, that's neat.

**GUNNOE:** Then I went from that to 1<sup>st</sup> cook. And then on our way to New Zealand, that's where I was promoted to Chief Commissary Stewart, Chief Petty Officer.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah. What was a typical day like while you were still in Virginia, like what did you do?

**GUNNOE:** Well, in Virginia, I did most the training, cause I had six years service, see in the Army before.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** And I did more training. I was drill sergeant, and more or less, it was pretty simple for me there.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah. And then you said when you left Virginia, you went to California first right?

**GUNNOE:** Went to California. And I was promoted to Chief Commissary, or Chief Petty Officer. Went aboard, we was attached to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division in combat units with them. And I was promoted to Chief Commissary Stewart. And aboard ship, Al and I, he was the other

chief, we were in charge of the food service of the ship we were on, which was, it was from the British, a ship turned over to us, and we had I think, I don't remember whether it was six, I mean eight or 1200 troops. Well formed into combat units, the Marines and Navy.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh. Did you get along well with the other people in your unit?

**GUNNOE:** Oh yes. Uh-huh. I got along real good in the military.

**MCCULLOUGH:** That's good. Did you have to go through a lot of extensive training before leaving the United States to go to the war, like was there a lot of training involved?

**GUNNOE:** Well, yes, there was quite a bit. We were on the west coast, of course we come out of there, the Navy had taken training there and then attached to the Marine Division.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** And we were forced into combat units there. And trained again, of course in my case, I was lucky I'd been in the service before.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah. You experienced a lot of it. Do you remember what it was like the day you actually boarded the ship and left the United States to go to war? Like what

**GUNNOE:** Well, no, I just remember that my wife, we got married in 1940, my wife and Al, the other chief, his wife come out. And see there in San Diego, and we were there for about, I think, I don't know whether it was 3 or 6 weeks training with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division. And when we got orders to leave, they went back home.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh. How long did it take you, like how long were you on the ship going from California to New Zealand? Do you remember?

**GUNNOE:** To New Zealand, seems me like about 3 weeks. It was a long ways, cause we stopped off at Pearl Harbor for one day I think or maybe two days there.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah. What was life like aboard the ship? Like what

**GUNNOE:** Well, for me it wasn't too bad. We were chiefs, and we were in charge of the galley.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** So we had our, we had the same privileges as commissioned officers did, and it was pretty simple. The only thing is, we had to be sure that all the food was prepared and served at the correct time.

**MCCULLOUGH:** What was your initial reaction when you reached New Zealand?

**GUNNOE:** New Zealand. Well, it was very strange. When we were aboard there, those people come down, and the ships come in to shore.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** They come in down there and welcomed us. I've never seen so much welcome in the military as we had there.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** And then we went in training there at a station, we had to run a mile around a circle there.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** And they'd invite us, when we were there, I know it was about 3 weeks, before we went to Guadalcanal and the Solomon Islands. And they'd come down and invite us to their homes to have dinner.

**MCCULLOUGH:** So they were really happy to have you there.

**GUNNOE:** Oh they were really glad. Because they knew at that time they were expecting an invasion by the Japanese.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah. Well that's good that they were really

**GUNNOE:** Beg your pardon.

**MCCULLOUGH:** That's good that they were excited to have you.

**GUNNOE:** Yeah. Uh-huh. Yeah. They really was. See that's the British Solomon Islands. And they were sent, all their forces were sent to Great Britain.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** Where they were fighting the Germans. They were practically helpless that the Japs were moving in there.

**MCCULLOUGH:** While you were in New Zealand, did you have any free time to do what you wanted or were you

**GUNNOE:** Yes. We did have. The fact is, we had, except on our drilling times in there, we had free time to go where we wanted to as long as we were back at a certain time.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** We had a lot of freedom there.

**MCCULLOUGH:** That's good that you had some time.

**GUNNOE:** I never seen any troops or anybody treated as well as we were in New Zealand, cause they were expecting an invasion of the Japanese at that time.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh. What were your thoughts when you had to leave New Zealand, knowing

**GUNNOE:** Well we went from, after training there I think about 3 weeks or maybe 6, then we went aboard ship for Guadalcanal and the Solomon Islands. And we went there, that was our toughest operation. We went to face the Japanese, of course they were expecting us when we came ashore there. And we secured, let's see, Guadalcanal in I think about a little over a month, and we secured it and took in Japanese prisoners or killed them.



[Interview interrupted by an announcement over the loud speaker at the Veteran's Home]

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** From there we went to Bougainville and all of the Solomon Islands, and used Guadalcanal as our operating base in the Solomon Islands. And at the end of that, which was along about '44, I think, or something like that, we went to Guam and the Marianas.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** We had an estimated of 122,000 Japs there. That's one advantage we had on the other islands, is the natives didn't like the Japanese.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** We went, that was one of the nicest things in that, I think it was either 87 or 89,000 troops with the Navy and the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Raider Battalion, 22<sup>nd</sup> Navy Sea Bees. And the reason I think, only about, I think there was only 87,000, and we had an estimated 122,000 Japanese on the island. And at that time we didn't realize that on the other end of the island, after we had landed there and established a \_\_\_\_, the 28<sup>th</sup> Army Division moved in on the other side of the island. And boy we were glad to see them.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** They were black. They were all black, all negros. And that was one time that you felt like you was brothers with the black men.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** We fought there side-by-side.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh. While you were on the other islands did you have very much contact with the native people of the islands?

**GUNNOE:** Yes. We did. The native people in the Solomon, all those, yeah in the Solomon Islands was our biggest thing, they were under British rule see.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** Solomon Islands. And they spoke English, the natives there, and they were glad to see those Yankees, boy they were.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** Just like in New Zealand, or almost the same thing.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh. So they reacted well to you guys being there, cause you were helping them out.

**GUNNOE:** Yes. And we were there, we treated them, we gave food to them.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** I remember sending food up, we had plenty. Our supply ships were coming in real good. And we gave food to all the natives that come around there.

**MCCULLOUGH:** That's nice. Okay, you said before like you would go and you would secure the island. What exactly did you have to do to secure an island? Like what

**GUNNOE:** Well, we went in there usually and we'd have a fleet see, we'd come in there, mostly battle ships and destroyers, and shell the islands. We'd shell and we'd make the landing then. We'd meet the Japs right on the beach. That's where most of our crack-ups was, you'd come in there and you'd see your buddies killed.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** So many of them. Some of the guys cracked up.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh. I'm sure that would be very hard to deal with.

**GUNNOE:** Huh?

**MCCULLOUGH:** I'm sure that would be very hard to deal with.

**GUNNOE:** I know one of the things I seen, there the Japs, see, had had the air power there at the start of the war down there. And we were under condition, what the, condition red, which, air attack.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** We'd see a lot of times, they'd come in there and the only thing we could do was underground. We had to stay under at least 6 feet underground, and stay under there except when you were on duty.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** And they'd come in there and drop those bombs, and you'd see a bunch of bodies, you'd see some of your buddies go up in the air.

END OF SIDE ONE, TAPE ONE; BEGIN SIDE TWO, TAPE ONE

**GUNNOE:** There in Guam, in the Marianas, they always called us Yankees. Never will forget that.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh. Approximately how much time did it take to secure each island, or was it just

**GUNNOE:** Now on Guadalcanal, I think about 6 weeks. We secured that one island.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** Then on Guam, well we had, we had operating base from there, we got replacements cause we had casualties there.

[Interview interrupted by an announcement over the loud speaker at the Veteran's Home]

**GUNNOE:** One time 54% killed, wounded, or crack-up. We had replacements there at each island before we'd go to another island. And let's see, I think there was 3 other islands we went

to. Guadalcanal was our operating base. From there to Guam and the Marianas. That's when the carrier force, you seen that badge that I have.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** At the end there they knew that, that our carrier force come down and took control of the air. Boy were we glad to see them. And they come in and they knew about the Sea Bees, and they sent. Well, I got a uniform up there.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah. I saw your uniform.

**GUNNOE:** They gave chiefs uniforms and gave us a badge. They come in, they were real good, they stayed on the island almost two weeks.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** And they come ashore all the time.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Where was the first place that you actually saw combat? Was that

**GUNNOE:** Combat? That was on Guadalcanal.

**MCCULLOUGH:** On Guadalcanal.

**GUNNOE:** And the Solomon Islands.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Okay. That's what I thought. Because New Zealand was more of just preparation right?

**GUNNOE:** New Zealand was, well that's right. They were on our side.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

[Interview interrupted by an announcement over the loud speaker at the Veteran's Home]

**MCCULLOUGH:** So you just went there for more training.

**GUNNOE:** New Zealand. Yeah. They were glad to see us.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah. And then

**GUNNOE:** We went from there to Guadalcanal and the Solomon Islands.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** For our first operating base. The last one was on Guam in the Marianas.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Okay. That's what I thought. I just wanted to make sure. You told me before that you were, didn't really get to keep in touch with anyone at home, but did you have any

**GUNNOE:** Yes. We had, we could send letters.

[Interview interrupted by an announcement over the loud speaker at the Veteran's Home]

**MCCULLOUGH:** You could send letters.

**GUNNOE:** At certain times we could send letters. We couldn't send them any time, we just had certain times.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah, certain times. Was there anything specific that you did, or that you had with you, that reminded you home. Like did you

**GUNNOE:** Well, of course, everyone's in the military over there, and they know, only about half of them come back.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** And we were all depressed, crack-ups, that's what caused that. Mostly, seeing their buddies killed and knowing they wouldn't get to come home.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah. While you were in Guam, in all this combat and stuff, what was a typical day like for you? Like what did you actually do each day?

**GUNNOE:** Well, we did everything under combat orders at all times. So you stayed in just certain, in other words you had, in units, you'd have maybe 200 or 300 men in that unit and you always stayed on a certain place.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** And then there you went right with the Marines. In the case of mine, like Al, he's dead now, he's from Old Hickory, Tennessee, and Al and I were good friends, and we'd be going there, and in charge of one whole beach. There was like red beach 1 and red beach 2.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** And I remember, I guess I told you about the one time, the mistake that I made, and our biggest job then was to be sure that all the units attached to our unit didn't take any chance on going into the caves and checking

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** For anything. And then I did the same thing. I broke our rule. I never will forget, Al grabbed me by the shoulder and said, "Don't be a damn fool." I never will forget that.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** And I was angry there for a couple minutes. And we started out and then we heard those little (?namboo?) machine guns. In there they'd set in there, and that was the one thing we had to be careful cause those Japs would try to set traps to get the Marines or somebody in there.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** And they were, there was already some of the officers was killed in there, the Japanese officers, and they had those swords, and everybody wanted a sword.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** And they had them laying in there where you could see them. And I started to go in there, and Al, he grabbed me by the shoulder, and we hadn't gone as far as from here to that door, I don't think, until we heard those (?namboo?) machine guns.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** And of course the Marines are all around, and they kill them.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh. Did you get much sleep and stuff, or was it a lot of

**GUNNOE:** Huh?

**MCCULLOUGH:** Did you get much sleep and stuff while you were over there?

**GUNNOE:** Well you slept in, you had to stay underground.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** All the time. You could sleep some. It wasn't very comfortable.

[Interview ended abruptly because other people entered the room and began talking]

**GUNNOE:** Now that will record everything, huh.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yep. Okay. It's Monday March 28, 2005. I'm Hannah McCullough and

I'm at the Barboursville Veteran's Home in Barboursville, West Virginia, to interview Mr. Roy

Gunnore. Mr. Gunnore was born on June 20, 1909, and he resides here at the Veteran's Home.

Mr. Gunnore, what branch of the service were you in?

**GUNNOE:** I was in the 25<sup>th</sup> Navy Sea Bees. Spent the war with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division in the South Pacific.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Okay. And what war was that?

**GUNNOE:** That was World War II.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Okay. And what was your rank?

**GUNNOE:** Chief Commissary Stewart.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Okay. And you already said you served in the South Pacific. Okay. The last time we did the interview, we were kind of just talking about what life was like while you were actually in Guam. Like we had gotten up to the point where you were actually in Guam.

**GUNNOE:** Well, the only thing there is you were losing a lot of your friends.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** Shipmates is what we called them. We had, from Guadalcanal we, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division went into Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands. And we secured all the Solomon Islands. And come back to Guam in the Marianas, and we had 54% casualties, killed, wounded, and crack-ups. Then we waited there and got our replacements. A carrier force come in there, and I got a badge, I showed it to you I guess.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** When the carrier force come in, sent all the chiefs and Sea Bees one of those and a uniform.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** Then we were expecting the invasion when they dropped the nuclear bomb. We had replacements getting ready for the invasion of Japan when they dropped the bomb. That ended the war.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** And we turned, the other chief and I, Chief Commissary Stewart, we turned down a commission, Lieutenant Senior Grade. We knew the war was going to end shortly, and we'd have to sign up for three more years.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** At the end of the war. And we had our four years of combat duty in.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** We wanted to go home.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah, you were ready to go home after that, I'm sure.

**GUNNOE:** We did.



**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah. Okay. While you were in Guam, or in any of the other places for that matter, are there any like just particular battles or whatever that really stand out in your mind as being memorable?

**GUNNOE:** Yes. Guadalcanal stood out in our minds, see that was the early part of the war.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** That was closer to Japan than it was to the United States.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** And we went in there with the 25<sup>th</sup> Army Division troops, black troops. We were glad to see them. That's one reason that color, skin color don't make a lot difference to me now, because we fought together there.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** You felt like brothers.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** And that was a difficult war. We finally secured it. The Japanese, they weren't taking any prisoners, so we didn't take any either.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** Then from there to Guam in the Marianas. And that's where the war ended, there.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** We were getting ready for the invasion of Japan, when our carrier force moved in. Boy were we glad to see those guys. Before that we was under constant attack. We had to stay underground most of the time.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah. I know you said you had like 54% casualties, so a lot of the people

**GUNNOE:** Yes. That was on Guam in the Marianas.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah. You were seeing a lot of people being killed and stuff.

**GUNNOE:** Yes. Uh-huh. Well, there was three of them. There was killed, wounded, and crack-ups.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** That was when a fellow would lose their mind, really.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah. How did you deal with that. I mean did you, how

**GUNNOE:** Well, I thought sometimes I was going to lose my mind.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** Cause I seen my friends. See, I was a Chief Commissary Stewart, and I was attached to a combat unit with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division. I had 2700 men under my control most of the time. I had drivers as well as cooks. And one of the favorite drivers I had, in fact I sent him almost anywhere. We loaded him up with an extra load and sent a ship's cook with him, and he hadn't went 300 yards until a plane \_\_\_\_ come in a bombed him.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** I seen his body going up in the air. I never will forget that.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah, that's awful. Speaking of food and stuff, what kind of food did they have? Like what kind of stuff did you eat?

**GUNNOE:** Well, it depended a whole lot on the ships coming in, supply ships. When they were coming in, we were doing real well because we had plenty of cooks. And when we got ready for an invasion, we'd have three lines, first, second, and third line. The first line would be an advance line, the second, and the third would be right on the beach. Just to more or less get supplies.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** We seen a lot of crack-ups. And I can understand why because you seen so many of your close friends.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah. I guess you just had to try to stay strong.

**GUNNOE:** The first part of the war there, until the carrier force moved in and took control of the air and the sea, we were under constant attack. We stayed underground all the time.

**MCCULLOUGH:** How did you stay underground? Like were there places like dug out like under there or.

**GUNNOE:** Well, we were required to dig fox holes six feet deep.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** And unless we were in advance, well even in advance there, you had to stay underground most of the time, you were under attack all the time.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** At the start of the war. Then it just reversed that, they were under attack continually, when our carrier force took over.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah. Did you guys have any like time off, like time on leave or anything? Or when you went to war were you there the whole time until it was over?

**GUNNOE:** Well, yes, I was in combat for the whole time. I enlisted in '41, at the start of the war with Germany, before Japan dropped the bomb. And when they dropped the bomb on Pearl Harbor, see I'd been in the Army before then, Fort Shafter, 64<sup>th</sup> Anti-aircraft, Fort Shafter, and our base was right in Pearl Harbor.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** When they dropped the bomb, of course I was in the Sea Bees then.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** And we went into combat units with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Raider Battalions, 22<sup>nd</sup> Navy Sea Bees, 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division. We had approximately, I think, either 57,000 or 59,000 troops. That was the reason on Guam, there, we had, the natives there were good, they gave us information.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** And they had estimated 122,000 Japs on Guam. We only had 27,000 troops in our unit.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah. They had a little bit of an advantage.

**GUNNOE:** Yeah. A little advantage. But we got help.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah. That's good that you got help.

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[Interview interrupted by an announcement over the loud speaker at the Veteran's Home]

**MCCULLOUGH:** Do you remember like where you were or what you were doing when you found out that the United States had dropped the bomb in Japan and the war was over?

**GUNNOE:** Well, at that time, we knew that the war was going to end shortly.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** And they went around and offered, chief Al, the other Chief Commissary Stewart, both of us a commission.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** Lieutenant Senior Grade. We were glad to have it. We went in to see the Skipper, and he said yes, both you chiefs have been approved.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** And we shook hands, and I never will forget it, he said just one thing I want to remind you chiefs, he said you have to stay in the service three years at the end of this war. We knew that war was going to end shortly.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** Because it was practically over then.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** And they dropped the nuclear bomb. And of course we turned it down, and the nice thing about it there, they had anyone with four years combat duty, which Al and I both had, could go back on the ships they sent back to the States.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah. How long was it after the war actually ended before you actually came back? Like was it just

**GUNNOE:** It wasn't very long, it wasn't more than 2 weeks.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Okay.

**GUNNOE:** Because some of them, well all the ships, once they surrendered, were coming back to the States, destroyers, battleships, and we came back on a carrier. Came back to Pearl Harbor. We looked in there and seen the damage that the Japs had done.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** The thing is, I'd been in the Army, the 64<sup>th</sup> Anti-aircraft, right on the edge of Pearl Harbor.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** And we stayed, we had to stay there a week or 10 days, I forget which. Until a battleship, we come back on a battleship.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** Back to the States.

**MCCULLOUGH:** I bet it looked a lot different in Pearl Harbor.

**GUNNOE:** Yeah, it did.

**MCCULLOUGH:** From when you were there before.

[Interview interrupted by an announcement over the loud speaker at the Veteran's Home]

**GUNNOE:** A lot of damage there.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah. I'm sure there was. Okay. So you stop in Pearl Harbor, and then you wait on the battleship, and then you come back to the United States. Where did you come back to?

**GUNNOE:** To San Francisco. San Diego, California.

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**MCCULLOUGH:** San Diego

**GUNNOE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** San Diego.

**MCCULLOUGH:** What was it like to be back?

**GUNNOE:** Oh, it was a happy time.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** Cause so many of your friends didn't get back.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

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**GUNNOE:** And we were fortunate too, coming back on those ships there before the, well the commander was lucky he has all those with four years combat duty go on his ships.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** And we come back to the States. Boy we were happy to get back.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah. Do you remember what the first thing you did when you got back was?

**GUNNOE:** Well, I know we were real happy. We stayed about three days I think in San Francisco. Then we flew back to Chicago, Illinois. From there we come on a train.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** And everything was set up for a free trip. We were fortunate. I never will forget, I called my wife from San Francisco, and when I got to Chicago I called her again. She was \_\_\_\_\_. We came back and landed at the airport there in Charleston.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** And she was there. I never will forget it. I looked out and seen her down there, and it had been four years.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah. I bet that was exciting to see her again.

**GUNNOE:** It was.

**MCCULLOUGH:** So when you actually came back to the United States, your time in the service was over right? Like you were no longer in the

**GUNNOE:** Yes. I had time that I could retire, and I got, I think about three or four days is all. Then I got back, I resigned.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh. And then you said when you got out of the service, you went into the restaurant business.

**GUNNOE:** The restaurant business. Right. Uh-huh.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** Yeah. My wife saved money. I'd send half of my income, I was a chief, major chief, and I'd send half of my income to my mother and the other half to my wife.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** Cause I didn't need any money there. Nothing to spend money for out there.

**MCCULLOUGH:** There wasn't really much for you to buy.

**GUNNOE:** And she saved, she worked at the railroad in Belle, and she'd save up money. I bought a restaurant there in \_\_\_\_\_. I had that two years and then I bought a large restaurant. My sister and her husband come in business with us.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh. Did your military experiences influence your career choice. Like you were a cook in the military first right?

**GUNNOE:** Yes. I was a cook in the military. I was a cook and mess sergeant in the Army before.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** That influenced my whole lifetime really.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

[Interview interrupted by an announcement over the loud speaker at the Veteran's Home]

**GUNNOE:** I was a Chief Commissary Stewart in the Navy.

**MCCULLOUGH:** When you look back at the experiences you've had, even in the Army or then afterwards in the Navy, is there anything you would change if you could go back, and you had the opportunity to change anything?

**GUNNOE:** No. I don't think so. Cause I knew it was my duty, I'd had six years service in the Army before the war, and I was in the reserve.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** No. I wouldn't have changed anything that I know of. I was very lucky.



**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah. Is there anything else you want to add? Like just anything. It can be about the war, before the war, about your life after the war, just anything.

**GUNNOE:** Well, one of the fortunate things, I worked for the National Youth Administration at the end of the war, not the end of the war, at the end of my enlistment in '35.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** I come down and we dated two sisters. Lieutenant Jameson was his name. And he was the one that got me the job with the National Youth Administration. I would have had to work in the coal mines if I didn't go there. And I didn't want that.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** And we started working down there, and I was promoted to manager of food service at the Martin Company, I mean, for the Martin Company later on.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** That's where a friend of mine, he was in another management, on another, I think it was auto mechanics I think. He said he had a date with a girl and her friend was coming with then and boy he wanted me to go with them.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** Boy that was the luckiest day of my life.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Was that your wife? Was that how you met her?

**GUNNOE:** Uh-huh. That's where I met my wife. The strange part about it, the second time we went out, I didn't have any idea what, he said we're going down to Russell, Kentucky, to get married that time. In West Virginia you had to wait three days after you got a license.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** And in Kentucky you could get the license and get married right then.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** And we were going, I didn't have any idea where we was going, and we were almost to Huntington from Charleston, he said, "we're going down to Russell, Kentucky, to get married." He said, "why don't you all just get married too." And I never will forget, I was impressed with Opal. And I said, "what do you think." And she said, "you're driving." That was the best thing that ever happened to me.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** Cause she was a wonderful wife.

**MCCULLOUGH:** How long after you met her was that?

**GUNNOE:** One day.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Oh really. Wow. That's pretty quick.

[Interview interrupted by an announcement over the loud speaker at the Veteran's Home]

**GUNNOE:** It sure was.

**MCCULLOUGH:** But that's good that it all worked out.

**GUNNOE:** That was the best thing that ever happened. She was wonderful. She died seven years ago last month.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** She was wonderful. And when I went in the service, she saved money up, and I bought a restaurant, the Ritz there in the cafeteria. I stayed in business there, and I did real well. I had a place in the arcade. Now it's not there anymore. The arcade is gone. We had the Grillette. I owned that for two years. I only paid \$3500 for it, and I sold it for \$6500. But I had made quite a bit of money.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** I paid \$26,000 for the Ritz, there on Corrier Street. And my sister and her husband wanted to go into business, they went in business with me.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** They're both gone now. They have been for years. We did real well there until '58. Then, there across the river, the Little Kanawha River, over there where there used to be a residential section, they bought all that land and a mall went in there.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** And they took all the business away from Charleston, I mean the main part of Charleston.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** There within about, I know all along there on Corrier Street was the busiest section of Charleston, Capital, Corrier, and Summers. And some of those would close up. And another thing I never will forget, I listened to my brother-in-law where I shouldn't have. Before they started buying that up, I had a feeling something like that was going to happen, and we had an offer then for \$80,000 for the restaurant, and he wouldn't agree to return it.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** And we sold it for, I think, \$3000. We practically gave it away.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah. So if you would have sold it to begin with.

**GUNNOE:** The same thing happened there, went out of the restaurant business in '58 when that went in, and we got to the point where we were just making expenses, that's about it.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** We finally decided I had to give the restaurant away, rather than stay in there and take a chance at losing it.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** Bankruptcy or something. Opal and I moved to Florida. We went to Orlando. It was a growth area. And I wanted to get acquainted with the area, so I wanted to get a job at a restaurant somewhere.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** So I had, a friend of mine moved down there for some reason. He said, "Why don't you go to the Martin Company. They'll hire a cook out there." And I went over there and did go in as a second class cook. And in about three weeks I was promoted to first class, first cook. And after that, it wasn't hardly three months after that I was promoted to manager.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Moved up pretty quick.

**GUNNOE:** Well, the trouble is, see in the Army I was a mess sergeant.

[Interview interrupted by an announcement over the loud speaker at the Veteran's Home]

**GUNNOE:** And I had, after that you know you have, you own a restaurant you better be sure you manage it right.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** So I guess I had knack, that's the reason they promoted me to management, food service manager.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah. You already had the skills you needed to be the manager.

**GUNNOE:** I stayed there till, oh I don't know, I was still looking for a place, but I stayed there. I was promoted there, only 40 hours a week, I wasn't allowed, they have a strong union, managers wasn't allowed work, do anything.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** And, of course, I'd do a lot of traveling. We had the main plant, it had 27,000 men, troops, I mean still, it is the largest employer in the state of Florida, it was then and I imagine it still is. We would travel, over at building 10 was the manufacturing section, there at the main plant was mostly engineers, mostly I think, 58% engineers. They were big in aerospace. Then we had one down at the airport. We had so many people coming in there. We had a small restaurant at the airport. I never will forget that. I'm just trying to remember why in the world I quit there. I think it was in the management, they said that anyone who had been in management for three years or longer and wanted to retire, we could get a special retirement fund. That's the reason, that's one of the reasons, the other reason was my sister and her husband moved over to the west coast.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** And we moved over there. But I retired before I was 60 years old. I never regretted it really.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** My sister was killed there. My brother-in-law went, well his mind went bad. Jack, their son was in Savannah, Georgia, he died, he was killed in an accident, and Ross's mind went completely.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** And he'd go out and drive from, I'd go down and try to keep him from driving, we finally got him so he would just go out to the road and wait there, and then drive back, back and forth in the driveway only.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** Opal, rather, Bertha, my sister would go out there and guide him back in, and I seen her there two or three times, and I thought that's too dangerous you know with him.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** And I never will forget, we got phone call there, the neighbor next door called us, he'd backed in and killed my sister. That was real bad.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** That was in Florida, of course.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah. And then you said you stayed in Florida though right.

**GUNNOE:** Yeah. I stayed in Florida until, well my wife died in '98. I couldn't leave the place.

And finally my doctor convinced me I better leave. He said you are so depressed, he said it's like a disease, he said it gets worse all the time.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** He said you could sell that place. I couldn't, see there was so many things that she'd made, had all the rooms had pictures in them. And I finally did. I moved and sold the place for \$68,000 and I left everything there.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** Even the garage where all my fishing gear, I had a boat in there.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** I gave it to the buyer.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** But I didn't need it. And that was a real good thing. The doctor was right.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** You do get depressed. Cause I was staying there, it was getting to the point, it wasn't no problem of cooking for myself. I've been cooking all my life.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah. You were pretty experienced with cooking.

**GUNNOE:** Yeah. I stayed in Florida for, let's see, it was five years I think. No it wasn't five years either, it was probably almost two years.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** Finally I decided I better get out, and the doctor was right because I was getting real depressed.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** Of course, I was getting pretty old too.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Was it nice to come back up here though and kind of be back where you grew up?

**GUNNOE:** Yes it was. Uh-huh. Yeah, you love these hills. There for the first year or two I was up here I, in fact I do now, once in a while, I go out just to walk around and see the hills.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** Cause I can understand why they call us hillbillies.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** Cause we moved down there in '58, and it was almost 45 years before I came back.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** And in that time, I worked at the Martin Company. I went down there with the intentions of buying a restaurant. I started working for the Martin Company and went into management, lucky there. That was in Orlando. When I retired, we moved over to the west coast. My sister and my brother-in-law lived there.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** Of course, while we were over there, my sister was killed and my wife too.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** Well, she wasn't killed, she died of bad cancer. The strange part about it, she said, "I hate to put you through all of this." And she was doing all the suffering.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** I love these hills. I thank the good Lord for each day I have.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** The only family I have now, I think is my brother, and he's blind. And that's one of the strange things that happened recently, I had a CD of \$100,000, I had their name on it in case anything happened to me, and I changed it, I took my name off, put theirs on it.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** And I gave them \$50,000 when I came up here from the house I sold, and I paid \$13,500 for a new car for them. What I do, I practically gave everything to them, cause I didn't need it being here.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah. Well it's nice that you're kind of looking out for him too, helping him out.

**GUNNOE:** And I know that his wife, Doris, is taking care of him. And I wanted to give her all the help as possible.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** Yeah. I'm glad that I was able to do that. I spend every Thursday with him.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.



**GUNNOE:** She's wanting me to spend more time, and I think I will. Because I realize, he realizes he's depressed. And of course I realize he's getting weaker all the time.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** There was eight of us children. Just two of us left.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Were you the youngest two? Or were there ones that were younger?

**GUNNOE:** Jullian is the youngest, yeah. The one that's living now. He's 80 years, rather, 90 years old.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** He was 90 years old in December. Of course I'm 95. I'll be 96.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah, you have a birthday coming up not too far away, a few months.

**GUNNOE:** June 20<sup>th</sup>

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** A little less than three months.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah, just a few more months.

**GUNNOE:** And I'll be 96.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** Yeah, I'm fortunate, you know. The one thing I think your biggest problem is getting depressed.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** Lose your friends and family.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** I like it here though. Of course, I like being back in West Virginia after so many years away.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** They're real nice here.

**MCCULLOUGH:** That's good. Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** You have everything that you want. They open, I don't know whether you ever went in those places there, there's two places, one for clothing and things, you've been there probably.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah, you showed me in there.

**GUNNOE:** It's on the first floor. And the other place is \_\_\_\_ shaving cream, tooth paste and tooth brushes, whatever you want.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah. I've never been in that one. It's always closed whenever I'm out here.

**GUNNOE:** Let's see, today's Monday, isn't it.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** I think they open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. And in there they have almost anything you want, including candy. I want to stay away from that.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** It's good to be back in your home state.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** The only time we come up here, and that wasn't very often, was in the middle of the summer usually.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** Yeah. I'm fortunate that I'm back in my home state.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah.

**GUNNOE:** And this veterans place is real good.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Well, if there's not anything else you really want to add to the interview, we can go ahead and just quit the tape here. And then we can sit here and just kind of chat for a little while or whatever. Does that sound good? You don't have anything else.

**GUNNOE:** Well, glad you picked the oldest veteran here.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah, that's what Debbie told me when I talked to her. She said we definitely want to get someone to talk to Roy because he's the oldest. She was sure you'd have some good stories to tell me, and you have. You've told me a lot.

**GUNNOE:** Yeah.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Thank you for everything.

**GUNNOE:** I have a lot of memories.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah. You've had a lot of time to make a lot of memories.

**GUNNOE:** The old saying is, the longer you live, the more you live in the past. It gets to the point where you are a little \_\_\_\_ I guess. I just thank God for each day I have.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Uh-huh.

**GUNNOE:** Well, that's about it isn't it.

**MCCULLOUGH:** Yeah. I'll go ahead and shut this off.